



Opening Statement of
Chairman Robert A. Brady of Pennsylvania
Committee on House Administration

Hearing on the
“The Capitol Visitor Center: the Visitor Experience”

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Upon its opening in the fall of 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center will provide visitors with a unique one-of-a-kind educational experience. The CVC will offer the only exhibit of its kind in the country dedicated exclusively to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Congress and the Capitol.

Better informed constituents make for a better informed electorate and the anticipated opening of the CVC promises an exciting future. We have with us here today the person who will lead the CVC into that future, Ms. Terrie Rouse.

Ms. Rouse has been recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of the CVC and has had extensive experience in managing museums throughout the country including museums in Kansas City, New York, Maine and I'm proud to say the great city of Philadelphia.

Also with us today is Mr. Tom Stevens, U.S. Capitol Director of Visitor Services. Mr. Stevens has been working with the guide service since 1985 and brings an incredible amount of knowledge to the table.

Last but certainly not least is Chief Phillip Morse, with the U.S. Capitol Police. Chief Morse is a seasoned veteran providing security to the Capitol Complex since 1985.

Let me take this time to say that I appreciate all of the work that the panelists do to ensure that Members, staff and visitors are in a safe, secure environment while having the best visitor experience possible. I look forward to hearing your accounts of how will engage citizens in their visits to the Capitol and where we go from here with regard to the future of the CVC.